

Application No.: 10/679,607

Docket No.: 200400266-1

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A printing device comprising:

a heated roll;

a backing roll;

~~a first transport mechanism that moves a printed side of a printed medium against the heated roll, a printed side of the printed medium facing away from the heated roll during a first pass of the printed medium against the heated roll, the heated roll and the backing roll being spaced apart during the first pass;~~

~~a backing roll that forms a nip with the heated roll, the backing roll being adjustable for changing a distance between the heated roll and the backing roll;~~

an inverting mechanism that inverts the printed medium; and

a means for supplying a separate sheet to the heated roll ~~the nip;~~

~~a second wherein the transport mechanism that moves the inverted printed medium to the nip for a second pass against the heated roll, the printed side of the inverted printed medium facing the heated roll during the second pass, the heated roll and the backing roll forming a nip during the second pass such that the inverted printed medium passes through the nip and the overcoat separate sheet is fused to the printed side of the printed medium. media.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) A device as recited in claim 1, wherein the backing roll is heated or otherwise provides energy or heat.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

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6. (Original) A device as recited in claim 1, wherein the separate sheet is a thermal transfer overcoat sheet, laminate, film sheet, or substantially continuous web.

7. (Currently Amended) A device as recited in claim 1, wherein the inverting mechanism ~~second transport mechanism~~ includes a duplexer or paper-inverting mechanism.

8. (Currently Amended) A device for supplying an overcoat sheet to a printed medium comprising:

a heated roll;

a backing roll that forms a nip with the heated roll;

a transport mechanism that moves the printed medium through the nip ~~and with~~ a first side of a printed medium ~~against~~ facing the heated roll; and

a supply mechanism that provides a separate overcoat sheet to the second side of the printed medium at or adjacent the nip, the second side of the printed medium including printed ink;

wherein the overcoat sheet is fused or attached to the second side of the printed medium at least in part by the heat provided from the heated roll;

wherein the printed medium thermally contacts the heated roll only subsequent to the printed ink having been applied to the printed medium.

9. (Previously Presented) A device as recited in claim 8, wherein the heated roll alone supplies sufficient heat to fuse or attach the overcoat sheet to the second side of the printed medium.

10. (Original) A device as recited in claim 8, wherein the backing roll is heated or otherwise provides energy or heat.

11. (Previously Presented) A device as recited in claim 8, including a guidance mechanism that guides the printed medium's medium's path prior to entering the nip.

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12. (Previously Presented) A device as recited in claim 8, wherein the printed ink associated with the second side of the printed medium is dried and the overcoat sheet is applied together in one heating step by the heated roll and the backing roll.

13. (Previously Presented) A device as recited in claim 8, wherein the overcoat sheet is a thermal transfer overcoat sheet or a substantially continuous web.

14. (Currently Amended) A method for applying a sheet to a printed medium comprising:

providing a printed medium including a first side and a second side, an overcoat sheet, a heated roll, and a backing roll, wherein the heated roll and backing roll form a nip through which the printed medium travels;

transporting the printed medium to the nip formed between the heated roll and the backing roll such that the heated roll heats the first side of the printed medium, the first side of the printed medium facing the heated roll;

providing a separate overcoat sheet to the second side of the printed medium at or adjacent the nip, the second side of the printed medium including printed ink; and drying the printed ink and attaching or fusing the overcoat sheet to the second side of the printed medium;

wherein the printed medium thermally contacts the heated roll only subsequent to the printed ink having been applied to the printed medium.

15. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 14, including the removal of a portion of the overcoat material or sheet.

16. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 14, wherein the backing roll is heated or otherwise provides energy or heat.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A device as recited in claim 1, wherein the backing roll is not heated.

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19. (Previously Presented) A device as recited in claim 1, wherein the heated roll is coated with a non-wetting material.

20. (Previously Presented) A device as recited in claim 1, wherein the printed side of the printed medium includes printed ink, and wherein the printed medium does not thermally contact the heated roll prior to application of the printed ink to the printed medium.

21. (Previously Presented) A device as recited in claim 8, wherein the printed medium curves around at least a portion of the heated roll before being moved through the nip.

22. (Previously Presented) A device as recited in claim 8, wherein the heated roll is coated with a non-wetting material.

23. (Previously Presented) A device as recited in claim 8, further comprising a heater or fan for applying heat to the printed medium, a position of the heater or fan being adjustable.

24. (Currently Amended) A device for supplying an overcoat sheet to a printed medium comprising:

a heated roll;

a backing roll that forms a nip with the heated roll;

a transport mechanism that moves the printed medium through the nip and with a first side of a printed medium against-facing the heated roll; and

a supply mechanism that provides a separate overcoat sheet to the second side of the printed medium at or adjacent the nip, the second side of the printed medium including printed ink;

wherein the overcoat sheet is fused or attached to the second side of the printed medium at least in part by the heat provided from the heated roll;

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wherein the heated roll alone supplies sufficient heat to fuse or attach the overcoat sheet to the second side of the printed medium.